



Building4Life - update: September 2017 Amazing News !

The vision of making our Parish Church a place where community is built, creativity is celebrated and Christian Spirituality is nurtured has reached a very significant stage and we've just had some fantastic news!

Three months ago we were ready to formally invite each church member to pray earnestly to discern what the Lord was calling us to give to see this vision come alive. By the 1st September we had received total gifts and pledges of £162,717 with a sum of £180,000 in an interest-free loan. This was a truly wonderful response.

However, since then, another £200,000 has been pledged!

This has taken **our total amount to £1,188,132** – a fantastic sum, for which we can truly give praise to God!

We have also been able to set aside £6,000 for the ministry of Pastor Misa in Moldova out of tithed gifts. This is on top of over £60,000 previously sent to build a new church there. Paul Peterson is taking group from Christ Church to see the new church and spend some days with Misa and the people there on 12th September.

The disappointing news that we had to face recently was that due to other essential elements that needed to be added into the work, tenders have come back considerably higher than we had anticipated, the lowest being £1,271,49.

Professional fees and VAT are estimated to be at least £220,000 meaning that the total funds we have available for the building work at this point are in the order of £968,000. The vast majority of the VAT will be recoverable but that won't be until well after the end of the project. We have applied for a number of grants and will know the outcome by the New Year. Even with what we have, a significant part of the project can be completed, and we can look with faith and trust to the Lord for what is yet to come.

The PCC have now approved a recommendation from the Building4Life team to instruct our Project Manager, Andy Morton, to negotiate a phased approach to the work, beginning with the ground floor, incorporating the works for which we do have the funds. As and when further money comes in we will be able to add back in elements of the project that are part of the whole vision.

We are incredibly thankful for the many members of our Christ Church family who have made considerable sacrifices to give as they have. There may also be others who have not been in a position to give or give yet. We are now working with the Diocese to finalise some additional grant applications which we hope will go towards enabling us to do all the improvements we are wanting to achieve.

Please pray that these grant applications are successful and bring in the final sums of money needed and that faculty approvals and further planning permissions may quickly be in place so that we can move out of the church later this year. The *provisional* date for this is now 12th November, but is subject to a number of factors. However, if we leave it until the New Year building costs will rise and we would lose the £20,000 grant we have been offered to replace the flat roof over the crèche.

We can give heartfelt thanks for the way God has led us, guided, encouraged and provided, to enable us to get to this point. I want to pay tribute the Building4Life team who have given so much time, shared their enthusiasm and showed much patience over many years.

We are almost there – let us all follow in faith the God who is with us all the way.

Jonathan Vickery, Vicar